

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08436 201513Z

67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 /095 W

----- 010021

R 201310Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5681

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8436

THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM BOMBAY SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA
AND MADRAS DTD 20 JULY IS RPTD:

QUOTE

BOMBAY 1428

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: PATEL ELECTED CM GUJARAT

REF: DELHI 8354 BOMBAY 1392 AND 1399

1. CHIMANBHAI PATEL WHO LED FIGHT TO OUST FORMER CM GUJARAT
OZA AND TO HAVE CM CHOSEN DEMOCRATICALLY BY LEGISLATIVE
WING GUJARAT CONGRESS PARTY, WAS ELECTED CM IN SECRET POLL
TAKEN JULY 14 GUJARAT RESULTS OF WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED
JULY 16 DELHI FOLLOWING COUNTING OF SEALED BALLOTS THERE.
OF 138 VOTING MEMBERS CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE WING, PATEL
(PLANNING MIN OZA CABINET) OBTAINED 72 VOTES TO 62 FOR THE
OFFICIAL CANDIDATE, KANTILAL GHIA (FINMIN OZA CABINET).
ELECTION SIGNIFICANT IN THAT PATEL SUCCEEDED IN WINNING BACK
DEMOCRATIC RIGHT OF PARTY MLAS FREELY ELECT THEIR LEADER.
IN GUJARAT THAT IS SINCE IT REMAINS BE SEEN EXTENT TO WHICH
THIS MAY BE PERMITTED ELSEWHERE. CERTAIN FACTORS MADE THIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08436 201513Z

POSSIBLE IN GUJARAT MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WAS PATEL

HIMSELF.

2. ELECTION BRINGS TO END INTERNECINE POWER STRUGGLE FOR LEADERSHIP GUJARAT WHICH SPILLED OVER ONTO NATIONAL SCENE THIS PAST MARCH. THE 44-YEAR OLD PATEL, WHO HAS MASTERMINDED THE DOWNFALL OF THREE CABINETS IN GUJARAT DURING THE LAST DECADE, SUCCEEDED IN MARSHALLING SUFFICIENT DISSIDENT STRENGTH TO FORCE MRS. GANDHI'S DESIGNATED CM OZA TO RESIGN ON JUNE 26. MRS. GANDHI NEVER MOVED STRONGLY TO SUPPORT OZA HOWEVER. BY ALL COUNTS OZA'S LEADERSHIP WAS WEAK AND UNINSPIRING WITH FACTIONAL INFIGHTING THE ORDER OF THE DAY. HIS DECISION RESIGN TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF THIS. IT HAD LONG BEEN ANTICIPATED MRS. GANDHI WOULD LIKE SEE HIM REPLACED BY STRONGER MAN AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. MRS. GANDHI'S DECISION LET LEGISLATIVE WING CONGRESS PARTY DECIDED CM ISSUE AND HER ADHERENCE TO THIS POSITION CLEARLY GAVE EDGE TO PATEL AND ENSURED HIS VICTORY OVER GHIA WHO WANTED HIGH COMMAND DECIDE SUCCESSION ISSUE. THIS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE MRS. GANDHI HAS CHOSEN TO BACK A MAN WHO HAS THE CAPABILITY OF BECOMING GUJARAT'S POLITICAL BOSS IN PATTERN Y. B. CHAVAN IN MAHARASHTRA AND ONE WHO CAN POSSIBLY BRING CONSIDERABLY GREATER MEASURE POLITICAL STABILITY GUJARAT THAN IT HAS ENJOYED IN RECENT PAST. IN EFFECT MRS. GANDHI IN GUJARAT APPEARS TO HAVE OPTED FOR THE CHAVAN-NAIK PATTERN OF MAHARASHTRA.

4. WE BELIEVE MRS. GANDHI WAS PREPARED TO DO THIS FOR TWO REASONS: A) SHE RECOGNIZED IN PATEL THE ASTUTE AND PRAGMATIC POLITICIAN THAT HE IS AND PROBABLY CALCULATED THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE TO ALIGN HER FORTUNES WITH HIM IN GUJARAT RATHER THAN FIGHT HIM. IT SUGGESTS THAT SHE HERSELF HAS COME TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL RESERVATIONS AS REGARDS SELECTION CMS IN DELHI AND THAT HER CHOICE IS REALLY BETWEEN A LOCAL LEADER WITH GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT WITH RISKS THAT ENTAILS OR PRESIDENT'S RULE. B) THERE WAS NOTHING IN GUJARAT SITUATION AKIN TO THAT OF M.P. WHERE D. P. MISHRA IN EFFECT HAS POSED CHALLENGE HER LEADERSHIP. MISHRA IS PERHAPS ONLY NATIONAL LEVEL CONGRESS LEADER THUS FAR TO COME OUT OPENLY AGAINST HER (BOMBAY 1419).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08436 201513Z

5. PATEL'S 19 MEMBER CABINET AS SPECULATED ON IN PRESS THIS MORNING AND IF CONFIRMED SUGGESTS DELHI GAVE PATEL ALMOST A FREE HAND IN SELECTING HIS CABINET. OTHER THAN GHIA WHO REPORTEDLY WILL BECOME DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, NO SENIOR LEADER FROM THE RIVAL FACTION WAS GIVEN A BERTH. MINISTERS NAMED IN ARTICLES ARE PRIMARILY THOSE WHO ASSISTED PATEL IN OUSTING OZA.

6. GUJARAT WILL CONSTITUTE INTERESTING EXPERIMENT. IN ADDITION HIS POLITICAL INFIGHTING CREDENTIALS WHICH WELL ESTABLISHED, PATEL ENJOYS REPUTATION AS AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATOR AND AN ABLE PARTY ORGANIZER CAPABLE OF FORESTALLING CHALLENGES HIS POSITION. WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO WORK TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION AND TO BECOME GUJARAT'S "POLITICAL BOSS". HAVING RISEN FROM THE PARTY RANKS AND COMING FROM HIGHLY ARTICULATE AND DOMINANT CASTE OF PATELS, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH OFTEN CONFLICTING URBAN-RURAL INTERESTS GUJARAT. HE ENJOYS GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT. ESSENTIALLY A PRAGMATIST WE WOULD EXPECT HIM RESIST PULLS FROM RIGHT AND LEFT AND TO FOLLOW A MIDDLE OF ROAD LINE. WE WOULD EXPECT HIM COOPERATE WITH CENTRE AND MRS. GANDHI AND NOT OVERPLAY HIS HAND. IN SUM WE BELIEVE THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE THAT SOMETHING OTHER THAN POLITICAL INFIGHTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN RULING CONGRESS PARTY CIRCLES GUJARAT IN PERIOD AHEAD AND THAT STATE MAY BE IN FOR GREATER MEASURE POLITICAL STABILITY.

BANE
UNQUOTE
MOYNIHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE08436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730720/aaaaaool.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 DELHI 8354 BOMBAY 1392 AND 1399
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PATEL ELECTED CM GUJARAT
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005